



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 27 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- USA TODAY reports annual incidents of trafficking and mishandling of nuclear and other radioactive material have more than doubled since the early 1990s, according to Vayl Oxford, director of domestic nuclear detection at the Department of Homeland Security. (See item [3](#))
- The Des Moines Register reports that Iowa lawmakers are considering emergency plans for reassembling the Legislature should a terrorist attack or natural disaster make it impossible to meet at the state Capitol. (See item [28](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 26, Times (UK)* — **Terrorism fear as boom in price of uranium pulls in new miners.** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is concerned that a doubling in the price of uranium has attracted so many miners to the sector that inspectors may not be able to keep track of the new supplies. IAEA, which regulates compliance with the Nuclear Weapons Non-proliferation Treaty, fears that uranium could fall into the hands of terrorists or hostile nations if it cannot control new mine production. Since the start of 2006 the price of uranium yellowcake, the raw material for nuclear fission, has doubled to \$72.50 per pound. Analysts are predicting that the price could go even higher in 2007, hitting \$100 per pound. This has led to a

vast increase in the number of uranium miners and explorers hoping to cash in on the price rises. According to analysts the number of “junior” uranium miners and explorers has increased tenfold to at least 200 in recent years. A number of countries are expecting to expand their nuclear generating capacity and there are an estimated 251 reactors in planning or under construction around the world.

Source: <http://business.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,8209-2518643,00.html>

2. *December 26, Associated Press* — **Toll in Nigerian pipeline blast at 260.** A ruptured gasoline pipeline burst into flames Tuesday, December 26, as scavengers collected the fuel in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, killing at least 260 people and injuring 60, the Nigerian Red Cross said. Witnesses said thieves had broken into the pipeline after midnight and hundreds of men, women, and children had been collecting leaking fuel in plastic buckets, cans and bags for hours before the explosion. It was unclear what ignited the gasoline. The pipeline is owned by Nigeria's state-owned petroleum company and was transporting refined fuel for domestic consumption. The blast was not expected to affect production in Africa's largest oil exporter.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/26/AR2006122600176.html>

3. *December 25, USA TODAY* — **Nuclear traffic doubles since '90s.** Annual incidents of trafficking and mishandling of nuclear and other radioactive material reported to U.S. intelligence officials have more than doubled since the early 1990s, says Vayl Oxford, director of domestic nuclear detection at the Department of Homeland Security. Also up: scams in which fake or non-existent nuclear or radioactive material is offered for sale, often online. "We sense that people have recognized the value of nuclear material as a useful way of making money," Oxford said. "Nuclear material is becoming a marketable commodity." The incidents tracked by the department average about twice the number made public each year by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Oxford said reports of nuclear and radioactive materials trafficking have ranged from 200 to 250 a year since 2000, up from about 100 a year in the 1990s. Reported incidents may be increasing because since the September 11 terrorist attacks, governments have become more diligent about policing material that could be used by terrorists to build a radioactive "dirty bomb" or similar device. Most reported incidents occurred outside the U.S. There are no reported incidents in which radioactive or nuclear material was successfully sold to a terror group, according to the IAEA.
Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-12-25-nuclear-traffic-x.htm>

4. *December 25, Associated Press* — **Nuclear reactors should be built to withstand terrorist attacks, industry says.** The nuclear power industry wants the government to require companies to design new nuclear reactors that would better withstand large fires and explosions, such as those that could be caused by a terrorist attack using hijacked aircraft. "If you need to change the design to accommodate greater security, particularly for large fires and explosions, you want to do that up front in the design process, not after you build the plant" as the government requires, said Scott Peterson, a spokesperson for the Nuclear Energy Institute. The industry's position, set out in a December 8 letter, runs counter to the government's. At question is the Design Basis Threat, or DBT, the largely secret requirements for threats for which nuclear plant operators must be prepared. A hijacked airliner is not on that list of threats.
Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/national/view.bg?articleid=173846>

5. *December 21, United Press International* — **DOE Inspector General report says FERC's Dam Security Program too weak.** According to a recently released report by the Department of Energy's Inspector General, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) lacked in ensuring licensees followed through on security improvements; lacked documentation and quality control of security assessments; and lacked documentation of yearly security inspections. The report said FERC either failed to establish or enforce "internal controls" on dam security. "Without internal control improvements to its dam security program, FERC cannot ensure that dam owners are implementing security measures to reduce the vulnerability of intentional or malicious damage to these facilities and, in so doing, reduce the risk of loss of life and property and/or potential energy supply disruption," the report stated. It recommended FERC take a thorough evaluation and revise its dam security program.
IG Report: <http://www.ig.energy.gov/documents/IG-0750.pdf>
Source: <http://www.upi.com/Energy/view.php?StoryID=20061221-113410-2 806r>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *December 25, Associated Press* — **MySpace users targets for vandals, ID thieves.** MySpace bills itself as a "place for friends." Increasingly, it is also a place for unfriendly attacks from digital miscreants on the prowl, luring users to sexually explicit Websites, clogging mailboxes with spam messages and playing on the trust users have when speaking to "friends" to obtain passwords that could lead to identity theft. Programmers are writing scripts that take advantage of specific features on MySpace, including "friend request," where one user asks to be added to another user's list of buddies. Social-networking sites make good targets because of the implicit level of trust users have when they're interacting with "friends." "The ongoing interaction lowers your reservations and security barriers," said Marc Gaffan of RSA. MySpace is rapidly expanding its team of software engineers, lawyers, and other experts who look for suspicious activity, educate users on how to prevent attacks, and go after the worst offenders. MySpace also is preparing to launch a more aggressive education campaign, urging users to take care and use tools that restrict the viewing of their profiles to only trusted sources.
Source: http://cbs2.com/national/topstories_story_359155042.html
7. *December 25, Sun-Times (IL)* — **New security freeze laws to take effect January 1 in several states.** Beginning January 1, a new Illinois law goes into effect giving all state residents the right to put a security freeze on their credit files so crooks can't use stolen information to

open fraudulent accounts. The new law expands Illinois' existing security freeze safeguard to all state residents, which is only currently available to consumers after they become victims of identity theft. When the consumer is applying for credit, the freeze can be lifted temporarily so legitimate applications for credit or services can be processed. Illinois' security freeze law will now apply to all consumers, even if they haven't been victims of identity theft. In addition to Illinois, new security freeze laws covering all consumers will take effect in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin on January 1.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/business/currency/185575.CST-FIN-c-t heft25.article>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *December 26, South Florida Sun-Sentinel* — **Engine catches fire just before United plane takes off at Florida airport.** The engine on a United Airlines passenger plane briefly caught fire on Tuesday morning, December 26, just before takeoff at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The Broward Sheriff's Office said the pilots turned off the No. 1 engine after the flames erupted while the plane was taxiing. Fire-rescue workers from the Sheriff's Office put out the fire. The 136 passengers and crewmembers remained on board during the incident, and no injuries were reported, the Sheriff's Office said.

Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-1226fire.0.2108777.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>

9. *December 26, Associated Press* — **'Time for everybody to die' note passed, delaying flight.** A New York-to-Portland, ME, flight carrying former Maine Governor Angus King was delayed for more than two hours on Christmas Eve, December 24, after a passenger passed along a note about blood and death. The man, whose name was not released, gave the note to another passenger, Tammy Budek, who gave it to a flight attendant as the plane rolled toward the runway at New York's LaGuardia Airport. "He said he had AIDS, and the shedding of his blood and all our blood would cure all sickness," Budek said. The note writer, who appeared to be about 35 years old, was hospitalized. After the US Airways Express regional jet was swept by bomb-sniffing dogs and nothing suspicious was found, the flight was allowed to take off for Portland.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/nation/186131.CST-NWS-plane26.article>

10. *December 26, United Press International* — **New York Port Authority studies fourth airport.** The New York area's airport operator has set aside \$150 million to develop a fourth passenger airport to serve the New York metropolitan region. The money in the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's 10-year capital plan follows the operator's singling out Stewart International Airport, 55 miles north of New York City, as the fourth airport's most likely site. "We are aggressively studying Stewart and trying to determine what the appropriate role for this agency would be in it," agency spokesperson Marc La Vorgna said. Airport operator National Express Group has put its 99-year lease on Stewart up for sale and says it plans to reach a deal by March. The operator is talking with several possible buyers, including the Port Authority.

Source: <http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20061226-105713-7719r>

11. *December 25, CBS 2 (CA)* — **Train station closed after man spills mercury.** Things were back to normal Monday, December 25, at a downtown Metro train station in Los Angeles that had been closed because a man intentionally spilled mercury on the platform, a sheriff's sergeant said. A security camera recorded a man pouring about two ounces of the potentially lethal metal out of a container early Saturday morning, December 23, at the Metro Red Line Pershing Square Station at 500 S. Hill St. The station was closed a short time later. Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel undertook the difficult task of cleaning up the mercury, which is not porous and cannot be absorbed. A chemical was sprayed where the mercury had been after cleanup was finished around midnight Saturday. The station reopened Sunday night. Source: http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_359230307.html
12. *December 25, ATW Online* — **Mesa heads to China to start new regional airline.** Mesa Air Group signed an agreement with Shenzhen Airlines to create a Chinese regional carrier, yet to be named, that is expected to begin service within the next year operating 50-seat regional jets. The deal is the first of its kind for any U.S. regional airline. Shenzhen operates a fleet of 45 A320s and 737s on 100 routes within China, employs 6,300 and carried 5.3 million passengers last year. Mesa Chairman and CEO Jonathan Ornstein, who was in Beijing for the announcement, said Mesa will provide "significant technical capability" including support for pilots, maintenance, operations and training as well as the aircraft. Focus cities for the new service are Shenzhen, Beijing, Chongqing, Nanjing, Kunming, Dalian, Shenyang, Xian, Zhengzhou and Nanning. Source: <http://atwonline.com/news/story.html?storyID=7458>
13. *December 25, Democrat & Chronicle (NY)* — **Train makes emergency stop in Rochester, New York, after fire.** An Amtrak passenger train carrying 131 people from Toronto to New York City made an emergency stop in Rochester about 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, December 24, because of an engine fire. Nobody was injured, but the passengers had to wait in the cold for about 10 minutes while firefighters extinguished the blaze. The Rochester Fire Department got the call at 2:32 p.m. and had the fire extinguished within minutes, said Battalion 3 Chief Joe Candelaria. About 30 minutes later, the passengers left the train and got on buses to Albany, where they were expected to transfer to trains that would take them to New York City, said Marc Magliari, an Amtrak spokesperson in St. Louis. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but there are indications there may have been a fuel leak, Candelaria said. Source: <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AI D=/20061225/NEWS01/612250319/1002/NEWS>
14. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Continental cleared for new landings.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has cleared Continental Airlines to use a new computerized landing system on Newark Liberty International Airport's runway 29, site of an incident in October in which a passenger jet missed the runway and landed on an adjacent taxiway. The procedure, called Required Navigation Performance, or RNP, will provide a safer approach for planes landing on runway 29 and could also help alleviate congestion, according to aviation experts familiar with New Jersey's Newark's airport. Continental had been pursuing approval for the RNP approach to runway 29 before the October 28 incident involving Flight 1883 from Orlando, according to FAA spokesperson Jim Peters. The airline's request was approved on December 1. An RNP approach uses on-board computers and satellite-based navigation equipment to create a virtual "highway in the sky" pilots can view on a cockpit-mounted

display. It also identifies other aircraft and geographic features. Most domestic planes are equipped with the technology, Peters said, but the FAA must develop a specific program for individual runways to be coded into the airplane's computer.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061222/continental_missed_runway.htm l?.v=1

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *December 24, Associated Press* — **Post Offices catch up after snowstorm.** An army of 1,500 mail carriers fanned out across Colorado and Wyoming on Christmas Eve, making rare Sunday, December 24, deliveries in a bid to get hundreds of thousands of blizzard-delayed packages to their destinations on time. "This is an unprecedented effort," Postal Service spokesperson Al DeSarro said. They all volunteered for the extra duty, he said. Normally, about 100 carriers would be working on Sunday, he said. A blizzard dropped up to three and one-half feet of snow on Colorado and Wyoming last week, disrupting mail service for parts of three days amid the Christmas delivery crunch. The storm also shut down roads, businesses, schools, and airports — including Denver International, the nation's fifth-busiest. That delayed mail arriving from elsewhere as well as deliveries within the two states. "There were flights of packages that didn't get in until Saturday morning," DeSarro said, adding that 300,000 packages arrived at post offices in the two states on Saturday and Sunday.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SNOWSTORM_MAIL?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

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Agriculture Sector

16. *December 26, Miami Herald* — **Guava tree may stop citrus greening.** The tropical guava tree could hold the secret to stopping citrus greening, a deadly plant disease that is spreading rapidly in Florida, a team of U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists said. Tim Gottwald, a plant pathologist at the U.S. Horticultural Research Lab in Fort Pierce, FL, said that in southern Vietnam, planting guava trees alongside citrus trees has suppressed the insect that spreads greening. The bacterial disease has not appeared for 15 years in the Vietnamese groves, he said. The research lab is jump-starting research by buying 15,000 to 20,000 guava trees to learn how the guava might suppress the psyllids that spread greening, lab director Calvin Arnold said. The team, which includes Gottwald, has commitments from 10 major citrus growers in greening's hot zone of South and Southwest Florida to plant guava trees in their groves.

Citrus greening information: <http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/agricultural/fruit/citrus/ASP-hoy.htm>

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/16317709.htm>

17. *December 26, Journal (WV)* — **Farmer loses 90 cattle to poison.** A Kabletown, WV, man recently lost 90 of his beef cattle. Stanley Dunn, a farmer in Kabletown, said that he lost the herd when an insecticide somehow got into the mineral feed. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture are looking into the problem, according to Dunn. Dunn noticed the first dead animals on December 5, and lost an

entire herd before the cause was isolated. Dunn said that when the mineral feed was analyzed, traces of an insecticide generally used for killing corn pests was found in the food. Dunn purchased feed bags in Charles Town, but he said that the store doubts that the bags were contaminated when they were purchased. The FDA is checking two of the bags that Dunn put out, and Dunn said that the feed bags were dated 2001, which he found odd.

Source: <http://www.journal-news.net/news/articles.asp?articleID=5878>

18. *December 23, Rockford Register (IL)* — **More CWD infected deer discovered.** Tests for chronic wasting disease (CWD) found 16 more confirmed cases in northern Illinois this fall, bringing the total to 163 since the state's first infected deer was discovered in 2002 near Roscoe. The positive tests came from deer killed by firearm and archery hunters and a few suspicious deer taken by Department of Natural Resources staff. Winnebago and DeKalb counties each had six; Boone County four. All but one case was from deer in previously infected areas. The exception was a deer killed in southern DeKalb County, about seven miles from the LaSalle County line. The state has included southern DeKalb in next month's special CWD hunt because of the new discovery. The latest positives came from about 2,500 deer. Tests have not been completed on all deer sampled during the firearm seasons.

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>

Source: <http://www.rrstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061223/SPORTS1904/112230062/1155/SPORTS>

19. *December 23, USAgNet* — **Syngenta fined for selling unapproved seed.** Syngenta AG was fined \$1.52 million by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for selling genetically modified corn seeds without approval. The seeds, engineered to produce an insecticide, were sold on 1,037 occasions from 2002 to 2004. Syngenta, based in Basel, Switzerland, told the agency in December 2004 that the seeds may have been distributed in the U.S., Europe and South America. There are no human health concerns with the gene-modified corn, the EPA said. Syngenta said it will pay the fine, which was levied for distributing an unregistered pesticide. The seed, called Bt10, is identical to Syngenta's approved Bt11, except genetic material was inserted in a different part of the genetic code, the EPA said.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2690&yr=2006>

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Food Sector

20. *December 23, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **China lifts ban on citrus from Fresno, California.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Undersecretary Bruce Knight Friday, December 22, announced that China has lifted its ban on citrus from Fresno County, CA, due to an earlier infestation of peach fruit fly. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) declared Fresno and Madera counties in California free of the peach fruit fly, *Bactrocera zonata*, on July 28, and removed established quarantines in both counties. The infestation resulted in several countries imposing restrictions on citrus from Fresno County. All trading partners have now removed peach fruit fly-related import restrictions on Fresno County. The Chinese market is worth approximately \$15 to \$20 million annually for Fresno county citrus producers. Agriculture officials established the peach fly quarantines on May 24, after six adult

flies were detected from May 15 through May 20. The quarantine covered the detection sites and a buffer zone extending approximately 4.5 miles in each direction.

Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/12/chinalift_sban_citrus.shtml

21. *December 23, Ottawa Sun (Canada)* — **Police probe case of turkey tampering.** Ottawa, Canada, police have assigned a detective to find out how nearly a dozen small pins ended up in a turkey purchased from a Kanata grocery store this month. The investigation comes on the heels of a warning from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which started its own probe when it learned a turkey purchased at a Kanata Loblaws contained the metal pins. The manufacturer, Granny's Poultry Co-operative (Manitoba) Ltd., also issued a warning. An Ottawa-area woman discovered nine or 10 pins after cooking the bird and slicing it open. The brand of turkey is distributed throughout Canada. Authorities said no other pins were found after inspecting 505 packaged turkeys from the grocery store and a Manitoba warehouse. Evidence so far indicates a "very high probability" it is an isolated incident, authorities said. Source: http://ottsun.canoe.ca/News/OttawaAndRegion/2006/12/23/29504_19-sun.html

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

22. *December 26, Bloomberg* — **Bird flu kills woman in Egypt.** Bird flu killed a woman in northern Egypt as authorities attempt to eradicate the lethal virus that infected two other members of the woman's family. The infection also killed a teenage girl in Cairo, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported. The woman from Zifta, in the northern province of Gharbia, had been in contact with infected poultry, Egypt's Ministry of Health said. Fowl kept by the family and neighbors have been culled, and people in contact with the birds are being tested. A 15-year-old girl died from the H5N1 strain of avian flu in a Cairo hospital, AFP reported. She was transferred from a hospital in the Nile delta province of Garbiya, where she was admitted December 20, AFP said. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aVw4.HxBKoSk&refer=europe>

23. *December 26, Associated Press* — **Boston health officials puzzled by outbreak.** What Boston, MA, health officials at first thought was an outbreak of whooping cough among employees at Children's Hospital may have been something else entirely. But exactly what is still in question. It started when a 19-month-old patient came down with the classic symptoms of whooping cough. Symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing, slight fever, and mild cough, which can develop into a violent and persistent cough. A laboratory test confirmed he had the disease. Three-dozen hospital employees and one other patient tested positive for whooping cough from late September through early November. But further testing, different from the initial tests, could find little evidence of the bacteria. Federal and state health officials joined

the city in trying to figure out exactly what ailed the workers, all of whom recovered.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=173928>

24. *December 24, Associated Press* — **South Korea slaughters thousands of pigs to stem spread of bird flu.** South Korean quarantine workers slaughtered thousands of pigs on Sunday, December 24, as the country struggles to stem the spread of bird flu, an official said. Nearly 4,200 pigs were killed at a farm in Asan, about 55 miles south of Seoul, where a case of bird flu — South Korea's fourth in less than a month — broke out last week, said Yoon Chang-hee, an official at the South Chungcheong provincial government. Yoon said there was an Agriculture Ministry instruction to cull all pigs within 547 yards of the outbreak site. In the first two bird flu outbreaks last month, South Korea slaughtered pigs, dogs and 14 unspecified animals within 1.9 miles radius of the outbreak sites in Iksan, about 155 miles south of Seoul. Yoon also said about 2,000 chickens were slaughtered Saturday, December 23, at a farm near the latest outbreak site. That brought the number of chickens and ducks culled in the latest outbreak to 25,000. More than 1.1 million poultry had been killed in the earlier three outbreaks that hit the country since late last month.

Source: http://www.ihl.com/articles/ap/2006/12/24/asia/AS_GEN_SKorea_Bird_Flu.php

25. *December 24, Hindu (India)* — **Polio cases detected in India.** Thirteen fresh polio cases have been reported in India, including one in Delhi, taking the total number of afflicted children to 610 this year. Last year, 66 polio cases were reported. "Out of the 13 cases, 12 are from Uttar Pradesh," a National Polio Program officer said on Saturday, December 23.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/24/stories/2006122407610800.htm>

26. *December 24, Seattle Times* — **After storm, a scramble to check nursing homes.** The realization hit public-health officials the morning after the December 14 windstorm, when they gathered in the King County, WA's emergency-response center. Someone mentioned that a nursing home didn't have power. "Do we actually know what's going on in nursing homes?" the health officials worried out loud. In fact, they didn't. With no plan that spelled out how to do it, Seattle & King County mobilized its first-ever strike team to contact all large licensed long-term-care operations in the county — nursing homes and assisted-living facilities — to assess their situations and offer help.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003492789_s_tormcare24m0.html

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Government Sector

27. *December 25, Tri City Herald (WA)* — **Security upgrade planned at court.** It might be a few thousand miles from the White House, but Washington's Franklin County government hub will be getting similar grounds security next summer. County judges, officials and employees have been calling for tighter security for years, but met with resistance from those who didn't want to limit access to the historical courthouse in Pasco or questioned finances. However, county commissioners have decided it's time to protect not only the workers but also the public. Some county officials worry the perimeter fence with a security building, through which everyone

must undergo airport-style screening, will decrease foot traffic and inconvenience citizens stopping by for quick business. Superior Court Judge Craig Matheson said the intent really is to protect the general public, and that "everybody has an interest in security whether they realize it." Judge Jim Lawless was killed in June 1974 at his Franklin County Courthouse chambers as he opened a package containing a pipe bomb. The courthouse and public safety building are multipurpose buildings, housing not only the judicial branch but also the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, most county offices and the Pasco Municipal Court. The Franklin County jail also would be enclosed under the new security measure.

Source: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/tch/local/story/8514766p-84077_75c.html

- 28. *December 24, Des Moines Register (IA)* — Iowa to update plans for keeping government running.** Iowa lawmakers are considering emergency plans for reassembling the Legislature should a terrorist attack or natural disaster make it impossible to meet at the state Capitol. The governor already has the authority to convene the Legislature at a location outside Des Moines, designated the seat of government by the Iowa Constitution, "in times of pestilence or public danger." There are also some sobering "what if" questions that need answers. Such as, what if there's a statewide epidemic that prevents legislators from coming together? Should steps be taken now, before disaster strikes, to allow lawmakers to conduct the state's business electronically from their home communities? Those issues are likely to be addressed during the 2007 legislative session, which starts January 8. A committee exploring measures to ensure that the Legislature can quickly bounce back from a disaster has recommended that House and Senate leaders look deeper into the security matter. Every state has "succession" laws that dictate which official would be in charge if the governor – and designated successors – die or can't perform their duties. But few states have elaborate plans and equipment in place, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Source: <http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2006/1224/NEWS10/612240330/1011>

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Emergency Services Sector

- 29. *December 26, Honolulu Advertiser* — Panel zeroes in on timelier alerts during emergencies in Hawaii.** Hawaii is standing behind its decision not to activate civil defense alarms after the October 15 Big Island earthquakes and blackout, but a committee of government, media and telecommunications representatives is poised to offer recommendations on how to keep the public better informed in future emergencies. State and Oahu civil defense officials received many complaints after residents statewide had to wait 49 minutes before they had official word that the 6.7 and 6.5 magnitude earthquakes off the Big Island's Kona coast had not generated a tsunami. A draft report from the Governor's Comprehensive Communications Review Committee calls the October 15 events "a wake-up call...that the current communications system can be improved." Committee members have until Friday, December 29, to offer comments on the report before it is put into final form. As it stands, the committee's top priority appears to be updating the state's Emergency Alert System plan to get information out faster.

Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061226/NEWS12/612260319/1001/NEWS>

30. *December 26, BBC* — **Bali drill marks tsunami memorial.** Thousands of people on the Indonesian island of Bali have taken part in an evacuation drill to mark the second anniversary of the Asian tsunami. The drill was aimed at raising awareness and testing new technology. A magnitude 9.0 quake triggered the Asian tsunami on December 26, 2004, claiming almost 250,000 lives. The drill on Bali involved several thousand people. A concert was organized to draw people, followed by a mock quake and the sounding of tsunami sirens. The exercise involved real-time warnings sent from Jakarta to radios on the beach. However, the BBC's Lucy Williamson in Jakarta says a full warning system is far from complete. Sirens along coasts in Aceh, Bali and West Sumatra are only partially finished, she says, and the framework for a national warning system with detection devices on land and sea is not ready either. The government coordinator for the early warning system says delays were due to problems with funding that have only recently been resolved.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6209413.stm>
31. *December 25, Daily Yomiuri (Japan)* — **Police, others to share info on disasters by wireless Internet in Japan.** To ensure the quick and accurate flow of information during a disaster, the Japanese government will install a wireless broadband system connecting emergency services and related organizations, the Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry said Sunday, December 24. The planned mobile communications network, to be in place by the end of fiscal 2011, will allow the police, fire departments, Self-Defense Forces and local governments to exchange information — including video — during disasters such as major earthquakes or typhoons, officials said. The ministry is currently considering using a frequency band for the system that will become available after terrestrial analog television is replaced with digital broadcasting in 2011.
Source: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20061225TDY03002.htm>
32. *December 22, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration* — **NOAA increases tsunami warning capability.** The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced Friday, December 22, the deployment of six new Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami, or DART, stations in the southwest Pacific. The new stations provide increased lead time for tsunami detection to the U.S. coastal areas at most risk of tsunamis traveling long distances, including the coastlines of Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California. “We have drastically improved our tsunami detection and warning capability since the Indian Ocean tsunami two years ago,” said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “These buoys are the latest achievement in an ongoing effort to increase the tsunami program at home and abroad.” Over the last two years, NOAA expanded the U.S. warning system to include the Atlantic coast, Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The agency has deployed a total of 25 DART tsunameter stations in U.S. waters; installed 15 new and upgraded 33 existing tide stations; completed inundation models for 17 communities; and recognized 26 new TsunamiReady communities.
Source: <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2765.htm>
33. *December 22, International Atomic Energy Agency* — **IAEA issues key guidance for first responders to nuclear or radiological emergencies.** When an emergency hits, the first people on the scene are local services, including medical, law enforcement, and fire brigades. They have important roles in the early response to a radiological or other kind of emergency.

Through new Webpages and a series of publications, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — through its Department of Nuclear Safety and Security — is issuing guidance to emergency response teams that could be called to the front lines of a nuclear or radiological incident or accident, and for national officials backing-up the early response. The new Webpages and reports cover different types of emergencies. They include uncontrolled dangerous radioactive sources; misuse of dangerous industrial and medical sources; public exposures and contamination from unknown origins; serious overexposures; malicious threats/acts; and transport emergencies. Guidance includes helping first responders to determine the existence of or extent of a radiological emergency, and to take the corresponding correct actions for protecting people and the environment.

Webpages for first responders:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/emergency-response-actions.asp>

Publications for first responders:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/iec/publications.asp>

Source: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/firstresponders.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *December 26, eWeek* — Prediction: Spammers must find new attack techniques in 2007.

One of the most unlikely predictions for 2007 comes from SecureWorks malware researcher Joe Stewart: spammers will have to evolve and find new attack techniques if they intend to maintain their level of profitability. Roughly translated, Stewart believes the massive surge in spam e-mail will taper off in 2007, unless spammers find new tricks to bypass a hardened Windows Vista and improvements to existing anti-spam technology and techniques. In an entry on the SecureWorks blog, Stewart argued that Vista will force spammers to deliver payloads through social engineering attacks and even that might become more difficult in the future, with Microsoft venturing into the anti-virus and trusted computing arenas. "Another factor which will have a huge impact is the release of the SpamHaus PBL blocklist, scheduled for release in December 2006," Stewart added. Stewart explained that spammers depend on these dial-up and DHCP-based broadband connections and, with the extensive reach of SpamHaus' blocklists, widespread adoption of the PBL, or Policy Block List, "will be very detrimental to spammers, as entire IP blocks where their zombie spam bots live will be unable to send mail to a large part of the Internet."

SecureWorks blog: <http://www.secureworks.com/researchcenter/weblog.html>

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2069209.00.asp>

35. *December 26, eWeek* — Security analysts predict more mergers and acquisitions in 2007.

Security software market analysts have been calling for significant consolidation in the space since at least 2005, but some industry watchers are predicting that 2007 may be the year when the trend is finally realized. While a handful of high-profile deals were pulled off in the security sector during 2006, experts contend that more deals will get done over the next 12 months as an array of factors combine to increase pressure on applications makers. Along with the arrival of a range of security technologies from Microsoft, both in stand-alone form and as features included in its newly released Vista operating system, the push by larger security software providers to diversify their product lines and generate opportunities in emerging

sectors of the market will spur more deals in 2007 than have been seen in previous years, analysts said. "We're seeing that large companies are trying to expand their portfolios and become end-to-end providers of enterprise-class security technologies," said Jon Oltsik, analyst at Enterprise Strategy Group. "In order to do that, they must cherry pick among the other providers and look for specialists from the venture-backed startup world," he said. Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2070631.00.asp>

36. *December 26, eWeek* — **VoIP will take on new roles in 2007.** In the networking space in 2007, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) will be less about reducing communications cost on a converged IP network and more about improving productivity and creating new business applications that incorporate voice to generate new streams or enhance customer service. The steady vendor drumbeat in 2006 around unified communications helped lay the groundwork for new Web 2.0-style applications that use voice as one of several components. "The year 2007 will be the year of VoIP apps," said Zeus Kerravala, an analyst with The Yankee Group. "Every major vendor in [the space] now has some sort of [development] community around them, like Avaya's DevConnect. Cisco has one, 3Com is starting one and Microsoft pushes that further along as well." Microsoft's joint partnership this year with Nortel Networks, which will allow the software giant to develop IP PBX functions that can run on any Windows server, will in 2007 hasten the demise of the hardware-based IP PBX, said Dave Passmore, an analyst at the Burton Group. At the same time, Kerravala said service providers will begin offering voice as a hosted service, creating a "business version of Vonage." Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.2066839.00.asp>

37. *December 25, New York Times* — **Flaws are detected in Microsoft's Vista.** Microsoft is facing an early crisis of confidence in the quality of its Windows Vista operating system as computer security researchers and hackers have begun to find potentially serious flaws in the system that was released to corporate customers late last month. On December 15, a Russian programmer posted a description of a flaw that makes it possible to increase a user's privileges on all of the company's recent operating systems, including Vista. And over the weekend a Silicon Valley computer security firm said it had notified Microsoft that it had also found that flaw, as well as five other vulnerabilities, including one serious error in the software code underlying the company's new Internet Explorer 7 browser. The browser flaw is particularly troubling because it potentially means that Web users could become infected with malicious software simply by visiting a booby-trapped site. That would make it possible for an attacker to inject rogue software into the Vista-based computer, according to executives at Determina, a company based in Redwood City, CA. Despite Microsoft assertions about the improved reliability of Vista, many in the industry are taking a wait-and-see approach. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/25/technology/25vista.html?_r=1&ref=technology&oref=slogin

38. *December 24, ComputerWorld* — **'Merry Christmas to our heroes' e-mail installs malicious code.** A popular Christmas PowerPoint file has been modified to incorporate malicious code that gives an attacker unauthorized access to infected systems, iDefense warned Sunday, December 24. In an e-mail warning, iDefense said that the e-mail with the subject "Merry Christmas to our hero sons and daughters!" and the attachment Christmas+Blessing-4.ppt "silently installs a backdoor Trojan horse on vulnerable computers." This version of the Hupigon (sometimes also called Hupigeon) Trojan installs two files on a compromised system,

according to Ken Dunham, director of iDefense's Rapid Response Team: msupdate.dll (18,507 bytes) and sdfsc.dll (3 bytes). A remote Website used in this attack has been found on a server in China, Dunham said.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9006738&intsrc=hm_list

39. *December 22, IDG News Service* — **Microsoft CSRSS vulnerability does not pose a great risk.** A vulnerability that affects four of Microsoft's operating systems, including Vista, doesn't appear to pose a great risk, says one security vendor. Microsoft's security blog said proof-of-concept code has been publicly released that targets the Client-Server Runtime Subsystem (CSRSS), which performs functions such as launching and closing applications. A user could launch malicious code within the CSRSS that would elevate their privileges on a computer, such as going from an ordinary user to an administrator, said Thomas Kristensen, chief technology officer for Secunia AsP in Denmark. To execute the attack, however, a user would already have to be logged onto a machine or have gained access to the network some other way, Kristensen said. Because of this, Secunia rated the vulnerability as "less critical," he said. Still, the flaw could potentially let an attacker place a rootkit on a machine and scrub any trace of tampering with the machine, Kristensen said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/12/22/HNvistaflaw_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 1027 (icq), 1028 (---), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 4672 (eMule), 445 (microsoft-ds), 25 (smtp), 2967 (ssc-agent), 135 (epmap) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

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General Sector

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